



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	10-21-03	Interpretation #	03-044
Topic	NFPA 13R Sprinkler Substitution for 1-hr Construction		
Code Section(s)	§508, California Building Code (2001)		
Requested by	Tom Walsh, Sr. Santa Clara County Fire Department 14700 Winchester Blvd. Los Gatos, CA 95030-1818		

***Does §508 permit the use of a NFPA 13R fire sprinkler system to substitute for one-hour fire resistive construction?***

No. A NFPA 13-R fire sprinkler system does not provide coverage throughout the entire building which results in a reduced level of property protection. Therefore, it cannot be used to substitute for one-hour fire resistive construction. Protecting building elements and structural components is the primary objective an NFPA 13 system. NFPA 13 does this by providing an increased water supply and complete sprinkler coverage.

[Note: Fire sprinklers are not permitted to substitute for one-hour fire resistive construction when required by law or by other sections of the California Building Code and California Fire Code.]